

April 2008

Thirtieth Anniversary Banquet

30th

"Building Our Future"

Friday, May 9th - 7:00 PM

No-Host Bar - 6:00 PM

Ernesto's Restaurant

8544 SW Apple Way

[off Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway]

Portland Oregon

Dinner Selections:

New York Steak

Filet of King Salmon

Roast Italian Chicken

\$33.00 per person

Grand Prize 144/440 Handheld Radio

Send your reservation with check to:

30th Anniversary

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

880 NE 25th Avenue Suite 2-160

Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Thirtieth Anniversary
BANQUET RESERVATION
May 1st Deadline**

Please complete and mail your payment to OTVARC, 880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160,
Hillsboro, OR 97124-6258. Make checks to OTVARC.

NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ @ \$33.00 each = \$ _____

Meal Selections: _____ New York Steak (Medium)

_____ Roast Italian Chicken

_____ Filet of King Salmon

NAME(S) _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Send your check made out to OTVARC to:

30th Anniversary Banquet
OTVARC
880 NE 25th Ave STE 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124

**Oregon Tualatin Valley
Amateur Radio Club**

The OSCILLATOR

APRIL 2008

Volume 31 Issue 4
Our 30th Anniversary

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone. An amateur radio license is not required.

*Thirtieth Anniversary
Banquet*

Our Thirtieth Anniversary Banquet, "Building Our Future," will be held on Friday, May 9th at 7:00 pm in the newly renovated Monte Carlo Room at Ernesto's Restaurant in Portland. A "no-host" bar will be available at 6:00 pm.

30th

The Banquet Flier is included with this issue of THE OSCILLATOR. Be sure to return your reservation form to the club box with your check. The deadline is May 1st. Due to the short time before the event, this deadline is absolute.

You'll be selecting from three meals:

**New York Steak
Filet of King Salmon
Roast Italian Chicken**

Our evening will be given over to celebration of our thirty-year-history as a club. We'll look ahead to the next decade and beyond. The Grand Prize will be a 144/440 Handheld Radio.

There will be no other general club meeting in May. Everett Curry W6ABM is our Banquet Chairman.

**Ducie Island
DXpedition**

February brought the worldwide Amateur Radio Community the first major Dxpediton for 2008, VP6DX to Ducie Island located 290 miles from Pitcairn Island of "Mutiny on the Bounty" fame. The island is considered to be part of the Pitcairn group and is ranked number 25 on the top 100 DXCC wanted list.

A group of thirteen DXpedition members, lead by Carsten - DL6LAU were supported by family friends and another twelve members at home including the antenna engineering team, webmaster, finance team, medical and legal advisors.

Sea transportation to and from the island was provided by the M/V Braveheart owned and operated by New Zealander Nigel Jolly. The Braveheart specializes in scientific, adventure and radio expeditions all over the southern hemisphere and was well suited for the job. With a crew of six, passengers are limited to a maximum of thirteen.

Following months of preparation and planning, tons of equipment shipped from Europe and North America arrived at the Bravehearts home port in New Zealand. Expedition member Robin - WA6CDR joined the ship

**CLUB MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 9th**

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a Special Service Club. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

Our April 9th meeting will be held at our regular meeting location: **Peppermill Restaurant**, 17455 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton. A pre-meeting dinner is available at 6:00 pm. The meeting at 7:00 pm. **Lee Hendrickson K6LQT** will present a program on **The Western States 100 Endurance Run** and its communications needs.

Guests are always welcome.

**2008 FIELD DAY
PLANNING UNDERWAY**

Saturday March, 8th marked the initial planning for your Field Day Committee. This year, the members who have graciously committed time and energy to make this year a great experience include:

- OTVARC President Robert Crocker (WN70) general oversight.
- OTVARC Trustee J. D. Fort (K7JDF) coordinator
- Steve Ward (AD7OG) assistant coordinator

Ducie Island, from Page 1

which then sailed for a rendezvous with the rest of the group at Mangareva Atoll the closest airline accessible point to the Pitcairn group. Additional fuel in rubber bladders on deck was burned during the voyage to give the ship extra range, but severely limited access to the expeditions equipment during this phase of the journey.

Braveheart arrived on schedule February 3rd. The next day the team assembled in Papeete Tahiti, ready for the weekly flight to Mangareva. Excerpts from news releases dated February 16th and February 29th posted to the group website via Iridium Satellite phone do the best job of describing their experience:

News #17 – 2008 Feb 16

By Sunday night Feb 3 all the radio operators were at the Sofitel hotel in Papeete, Tahiti... except for Robin. Robin was on the M/V Braveheart, at anchor in Mangareva.

After catching up on missed sleep, we met several local amateur radio operators for a leisurely lunch Monday at a nice restaurant in town. One operator's checked bag failed to make the flight from Los Angeles, so he spent the rest of the afternoon shopping for clothes.

That evening the team had a small planning meeting, and then fell asleep (some in the meeting) due to the lingering effects of jet lag. By 4am Tuesday we had checked out of the hotel and crowded into two mini-vans for the quick ride back to the airport. Our 5:20AM flight to Mangareva left at sunrise. The ship's master, Nigel Jolly, met us at the airport. He had been in Japan and was flying down to join the ship as well.

Our flight stopped at an intermediate atoll, a classic example of a flat circle of coral with coconut trees -- and an airstrip. The airport "terminal" is a thatched hut. After re-fueling, we were off to Mangareva. Again, the airstrip sits on the outer fringing atoll. But Mangareva has a very large lagoon with some hilly islands inside. No one lives on the outer segments, so we had to take a water taxi across the lagoon. Anchored near the wharf was the M/V Braveheart, our home for the next few days. (Check out Google Earth for a great satellite image!)

By now it was lunchtime, and the customs immigration offices were closed for siesta. We stowed our baggage, and received a safety briefing and orientation to the boat (e.g., how to work the marine toilets, showers, etc) from the crew. At 4pm our paperwork was finished, the ship weighed anchor, and we were off. During the two hour crossing of the lagoon, supper was served. At 6pm, as the sun set, we exited the lagoon into the open ocean.

Wednesday was an uneventful day at sea. Conditions were fairly quiet and most team members were in good spirits. That night, around midnight, we passed Pitcairn Island. The mayor and some islanders came out in a "long boat" and tied up next to our ship as we motored slowly by the island. We took on fresh fruit and vegetables and a large number of bamboo poles... and delivered mail, medical supplies, and a computer video projector -- a donation from us to the Pitcairn school. It all went very quickly and, with a cheerful wave from the mayor at the helm, the long boat cast off and slipped behind into the darkness.

Pitcairn Island stands about halfway between Mangareva and Ducie Island. Thursday was spent in very quiet sea conditions with a long swell, but the seas got a little bigger during the night. At 9am Friday we were motoring around Ducie Island, examining the shore conditions, one full day ahead of schedule. The Braveheart anchored on the east side. The remainder of Friday was very demanding physically. Many hundreds of kilos of equipment and supplies were move out of the ship's hold to the deck, and loaded into small boats for transfer to shore. Unfortunately, low tide occurred near noon... so the boats could not get closer than 150m to shore. We had to carry everything through shallow waters, walking carefully to avoid coral, and set onto the shoreline. This was difficult work... and when the small landing boat returned to the ship to the next load, the shore party had to move equipment up over a 3m hill of loose coral to a safe spot.

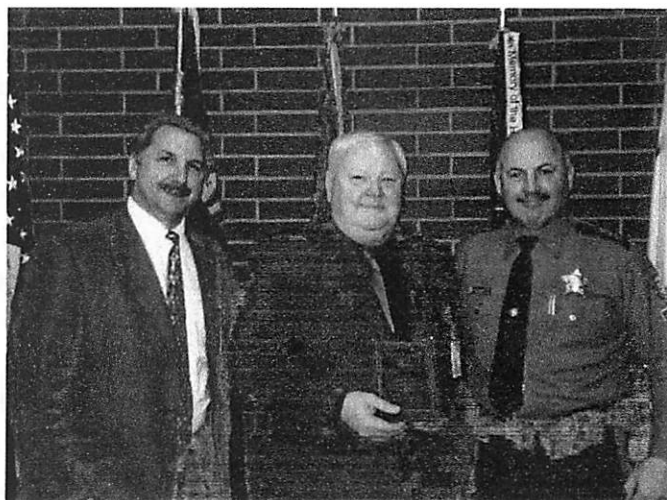
By noon the sun was nearly overhead. It was a long, hot, difficult day. The late afternoon was spent putting equipment under cover, building tents and cots, and finally eating a small supper. During the night it rained heavily several times. Most everyone was exhausted... but at least we were dry and the evening temperatures were very comfortable

Don Pfohl W7LPA" Receives State Police Charles P. Pray Award"

On February 5, 2008, Oregon State Police (OSP) Superintendent Timothy McLain presented the first "Charles P. Pray Award" to Don Pfohl W7LPA, Technical Project Manager for the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN). The OWIN project is the State's initiative to consolidate four state agency public safety radio systems and enable interoperable voice communication with other public safety agencies across Oregon. The new OSP award recognizes Department employees whose body of work or career accomplishments has a significant effect on the Department and establishes positive state, national or international recognition.

"Don's lifetime commitment and devotion to wireless communications is unparalleled and has greatly enhanced the safety of Oregon's citizens and Public Safety employees," said Superintendent McLain. "His national leadership and passion for the public safety community has had a far reaching impact while ensuring constant improvement of the vital communication life-line on which so many public safety employees depend."

The recipient also recently received a prestigious national award by the Radio Club of America for his service and industry contributions.



Left to right: Mike Zanon, OWIN Program Manager; Don Pfohl; State Police Superintendent

July Clear Channel Portland Studio/AM Transmitter Field Trip

- Trip will be our July General Club Meeting
- **Advance signup required** (first 80 members)
- Signup cutoff date is the end of Field Day
- June 28 (if not previously filled)
- Signup sheets at OTVARC meetings or by email to k7jdf@arrl.net.
- Studio Tour includes 3 FM & 2 AM stations
- Transmitter Tour includes solid state 50K & 25K sites
- Sorry, paid OTVARC members only.

THE BARREL



Read the collected thoughts of our president, **Robert WN7O** here...or online at the club web site: www.otvarc.org/president/index.html

At the web site, you'll find past BARREL contributions, plus other up-to-date information on the life of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club.

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



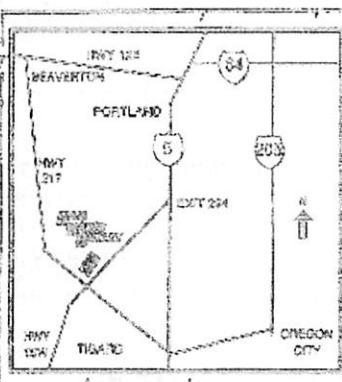
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HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

30, 31 May, 1 June 2008
SEA-PAC

**Northwestern Division
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 Seaside Oregon**

www.seapac.org
 Talk-In: 146.660
 C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q
 16414 NE 21st Avenue
 Vancouver, WA 98684
 Phone: 360-892-5580
 Fax: 360-892-5580
 Email: ai9q@arrl.net

1 - 3 August 2008
Pacific NW DX Convention
Portland Oregon

Willamette Valley DX Club
<http://wvdx.org>
 Talk-In: 147.14 (PL 107.2)
 Al Rovner K7AR
 18809 NE 21st Street
 Vancouver, WA 98684
 Phone: 360-256-7437
 Email: k7ar@arrl.net
 Monarch Hotel and Conf Center

Repeater On Shoutcast

Go to www.shoutcast.com. Search
 for W7OTV

OTVARC ADDRESS:

880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

ONLINE CALENDAR:

my.calendars.net/otvarc/

Want to keep track of events
 planned by various interest
 groups within the club?
 Want to check out the date
 for upcoming contests,
 projects, hamfests, etc.
 Here is the place to start.
 You find a link to this page
 on our web site
www.otvarc.org. Have you
 checked out our web page
 lately? Is there something
 you'd like to see included
 there?

Your business
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OSCILLATOR is
 seen each month.
 We have more than
 190 members
 who read *THE*
OSCILLATOR.

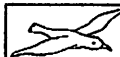
To include your
 "Business Card" ad
 (\$48.00 annually)
 or "Display" - HRO
 size ad (\$60.00
 annually), contact
 Maureen O'Rourke
 at 503.591.9641.
 There is currently
 limited space
 available.

Happy April Birthday

4	Kenneth Moore	W7GU
6	Richard Christie	WA6TVX
10	James Gorecki	AJ2K
12	Mel Sutton	KB7PVW
16	Ron Remsen	W7YOW
18	Wes Allen	K7WWG
19	Scott Hugin	N2ZEN
19	Darlene Young	KD7FUZ
21	Rick Rasch	K7VLS
24	Ernest Johnson	K7EAJ
25	J. Michael Fuller	K7CIE
26	Sally Butterfield	N7WAL
27	Jeff Repp	KD7EFM

Have we missed your birthday?
 Likely we do not have your correct
 date in our database.

Send updates and corrections to
otvarc@gmail.com



J. Steven Sanders
 Certified General Appraiser
Sanders Appraisal, PC

503-320-4100

jss10@verizon.net

Orengo Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124

Fax: 503-547-8200



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 rag-chewing on your radio!

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mcorourke@netzero.com

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 Email: ai9q@arrl.net Fax (360) 892-5580

Field Day, from Page 1

- Karl Anderson NM7N safety officer & site logistics
- Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH site logistics lead
- Ron O'Connor KD7VIK GOTA coordinator & operator scheduling (Everett W6ABM assisting)
- Linda Sutton KC7YTD food & beverage co-coordinator
- Mel Sutton KB7PVW food & beverage co-coordinator
- OTVARC Trustee Kristin Tomson K7KWT educational activities coordinator
- OTVARC Trustee Joel Simmons AD7IS unassigned

We have the official permit from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for another weekend of good times at Oregon's newest state park Stub Stewart, elevation 1121 feet. Steve Ward and I still must meet with park staff to finalize the exact location and parameters for set up. We plan to have this completed by the end of April.

There are changes in Field Day rules this year. The major one is the downgrade of the "Get On The Air Station" bonus points. There are now bonus points for an "educational" activity. You can read all about this and download the 2008 Field Day Package with everything you need at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>.

At deadline for The OSCILLATOR we still need these positions filled:

- POWER & LIGHT DISTRIBUTION coordinator
- SITE SIGNAGE coordinator
- SOLAR OPERATION coordinator (we get bonus points for contacts using this EMF)
- SATELLITE OPERATION coordinator
- VHF-UHF STATION operations

I would also advise you to make your reservations soon. Contact Reservations Northwest (http://www.reserveamerica.com/or/LI_Stub_Stewart/Campground/r/campgroundDetails.do?contractCode=OR&parkId=152&pstate=OR) if you plan on spending the weekend. I advise you to use this link. If you got to State Park's site and search there, Stub Stewart will not come up. If you would rather use the telephone, call 1-800-452-5687. I am advised that the "no vacancy" sign is already out for Rustic Cabin sites.

However, there should be tent and full hookup sites available. I have already received my reservation for Friday & Saturday nights. It ran me around \$50.00.

I recommend sites on the East end of the Dairy Creek East Camp. This area is closest to the trail which climbs to the proposed site of operations at Hilltop Day Use area.

Remember this event is only as good as the effort we all make. Plan to join us as OTVARC will "Ride The Waves" during Field Day 2008.



About the Field Day Logo: Ride the Waves

ARRL member Mary Von Lintig KV2M, suggested the slogan for Field Day 2008: "Ride the Waves."

A member of the South Jersey Radio Association, Von Lintig, inspired by the 2007 Field Day "bug" in last year's logo, enjoys VHF contesting and ARRL Sweepstakes and recently joined the Frankford Radio Club. "And, I like ARRL Field Day of course," she says. "I usually operate 21 hours of the event!"

An avid portable radio operator, she has even been on-the-air while operating her lawnmower. "They also call me the YL on rollerblades." Mary and her husband Richard Van Lintig, KV2R, live in Voorhees, New Jersey.

This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS.

- JD Fort K7JDF, Field Day Chairman

Ducie Island, from Page 2

The crew of the Braveheart has been fantastic. While we worked on Saturday and Sunday building antennas and assembling radio stations, the crew built a field kitchen, washing-up stations, picnic tables, a covered area with a large workbench for antenna and other projects, a field shower by the lagoon and radio operating tents at two sites 1 km apart. Outdoor toilets were built at both sites, and the crew moved generators (heavy!), fuel and water. They prepared meals and took laundry back to the ship. Although we are camping in the wilderness, in these practical respects the crew is an integral part of the overall Ducie Island team. They have worked with many radio expeditions before, and have lived on Ducie Island before, so they know what to do. Nigel, Niel, Matt, Bro, Nick and Theresa are fantastic and fun to have around, too.

Sunday evening the construction work was not done, but most were ready to play with radios a bit. We went on the air with 3-4 radio operating positions for a little "cooking session" to test equipment and have some fun after the long days of hard work. After a thousand contacts with stations around the world, sleep caught up with all of us and the stations were shut down for the night.

Monday evening at 7pm we started full-time radio operations with 7 radio operator positions. As we are a team of 13 radio operators and 6 Braveheart crew, staffing 7 radios 24 hours per day makes for some scheduling challenges. The radio operators have settled to the following pattern:

- 8 hours on the air
- 4 hours off
- 8 hours on the air
- 8 hour rest

Three groups of operators have staggered patterns, so there are always seven people available to work the radios.

If you do the arithmetic, this adds up to a 28-hour day. Each calendar day our sleep periods and on-air times slip by 4 hours. Over the course of six days each person will have a chance to experience both daytime and nighttime radio conditions, communicating with all parts of the world.

Bro is our main camp cook, and the cook on the Braveheart. Breakfast is at 7am (later for people scheduled to be on the air), lunch around 1pm, and supper at 7pm. The basic staples are stored in waterproof drums on shore, with enough supplies for a few days on our own. The Braveheart sends more supplies, fuel, and fresh water (and clean laundry!) ashore almost every day. Fresh-caught fish are often featured at lunch or dinner.

The diet has been varied and delicious. We work too hard to put on any weight, fortunately.

The typical day is partly cloudy, hot in the mid-day sun but comfortable in any shade with a breeze. We have about the most scenic spot in the world for a shower: on the shore of a turquoise lagoon with white sand and colorful fish. One afternoon I was taking my "shower" (one half bucket of fresh water, hoisted up by rope on a tripod high enough to drain through a plastic hose and a normal shower head), and then realized there was a speckled fish about 20cm long just at the shoreline of the lagoon, watching. I cannot imagine what that fish was thinking, but he floated in the water right there until I had packed away my towel and soap.

We sleep 3 persons in large tents (tall enough to stand inside) on folding camp cots that are pretty comfortable. Evenings are beautiful -- huge star-filled skies, a waxing moon until midnight now, and pleasant temperatures. A few nights have had showers -- short, dense downpours. On the first night I used one of these to take a quick fresh-water shower. The rain temperature was very refreshing... but the shower was a bit TOO short: I was left standing naked on the beach with a few soapy areas when the rain moved away. Life is so difficult sometimes.

We have two radio operating sites. The second is about 1 km away on the north shoreline. It's a moderately easy walk over an open plain of ancient coral worn rough by erosion. We schedule operators at night in a pattern to minimize the long walk in the dark, but with a flashlight held low (waist high), the shadows cast by the irregular terrain make it pretty easy to pick one's way across under the stars.

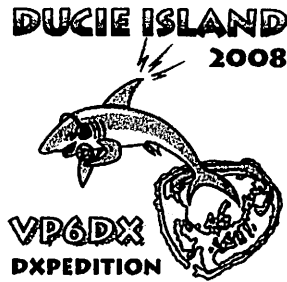
From a radio operating standpoint, the expedition to date has been a huge success. We are far above even the most optimistic expectations for results to date. The new antenna designs are outstanding performers. The new radio, (K3: editor) on its first expedition, has been superb and the manufacturer (Elecraft, in the USA) has been swamped with inquiries. Our laptops, WiFi network, and microwave data network between the two camps has worked well. The Honda generators have been fuel thrifty and reliable. We are now on day 4 of full-time operations with very few problems. Reports of our signals from all over the world are uniformly excellent. Contact totals are running at record-breaking rates:

- cooking session: 1034 contacts
- Day 1: 17,026 contacts (this may be a one-day record)
- Day 2: 14,301 contacts
- Day 3: 13,728 contacts, including a clock hour with over 1200 contacts

We are now two hours from the end of Day 4, and in a
Go To Ducie Island, Page 7

Ducie Island, from Page 6

few minutes we will make our 60,000th radio contact. While the pace will slow down, this is an outstanding start. You can imagine the big smiles around the camp. More news later...



The team efficiently continued working pile-ups on all bands and on Monday February 25th at 0437 UTC, after 13 days, 7 hours and 37 minutes broke an all time QSO record previously held by the 2001 Comoros Island (D68C) group.

A few moments later the skies over Ducie Island sparkled with flares launched from M/V Braveheart in celebration. With strong pile-ups still to work everyone was soon back at work, or in their cots getting ready for their next shift.

Finally on February 27th the VP6DX operation went off the air (QRT) with a final total of 183,686 QSO's having broken numerous all time records.
News #23 – 2008 Feb 29

Around 4:30am Wednesday (Feb 27 Wed 1230z), a rain shower drenched Ducie Island. On-duty operators scrambled to close up the radio operating tents, which had been left open to enjoy pleasant nighttime breezes. Two hours later, at dawn, Eric and Carsten *the expedition co-leaders) and Nigel (captain of the Braveheart) stood at the top of the shoreline, coffee cups in hand, discussing the recent rain. Bands of rain showers had been seen the previous sunset, and more were evident in this morning's eastern sky. The discussion was short, for each man had already privately concluded the on-the-air phase of the Ducie Island expedition should end immediately. The generators were switched off, and the roar of the surf against the shoals of low tide became the predominant sound.

For more information regarding the 2008 VP6DX Ducie Island operation see:
<http://www.vp6dx.com>
<http://www.braveheart.pn>

Ron O'Connor – KD7VIX
(Contacts logged with VP6DX on 15, 17, 20, 40 and 75-M)

COMPLETED YOUR SEA-PAC REGISTRATION?

Go to www.seapac.org and do it online.

LUNCH BUNCH

Saturday April 26, 2008
at 1:30 pm

Raccoon Lodge
7424 SW Beaverton Hillsdale Highway
Portland, Oregon
503-296-0110

For details, check with:
Linda KC7YTD
503.246.8879

**FIFTH WEDNESDAY
SIMPLEX CONTEST**

April 30th
8:00 - 9:00 PM

Have some fun, and increase your operating skills. Join us for a 2 meter simplex contest. We meet on 147.54 MHz simplex from 8:00 to 9:00 pm Pacific Daylight Time.

The exchange is your classification (Class A is 5 watts or less; Class B is more than 5 watts, both single operator. Class C is multiple operator) and your Zip Code.

Logs are sent to Jim Schaeffer KB7ADH. We will email the log sheet close to the event as a reminder. An award is given in each class for each occasion. A log may be found on our web site.

**30th Anniversary
SPECIAL EVENT STATION**

This year, May 8th, marks the 30th Anniversary of Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club. One event to help us celebrate these achievements is planned. We intend to operate WZOTV as a *Special Event Station* on May 10, 17 and 24. We expect to have an operation at SEA-PAC as well. If you'd like to participate, contact Ron O'Connor

www.seapac.org

May 30 — 31, June 1, 2008

Seaside Oregon

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION ARRL CONVENTION
SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER



OREGON TUALATIN VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
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Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

PORTLAND OR 972

04 APR 2008 PM 3 L



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223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.250 MHz (Goat Mtn)
440.350 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)
Editor: Everett W6ABM w6abm@arrl.net

~~Al and Mary Berg~~
~~795 SE 54th Ave~~
~~Hillsboro OR 97123-7629~~

CLUB MEETING
APRIL 9TH